REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

LIEUT.-GEN. A. PHELPS,
23, AUGUSTUS ROAD.

GLOUCESTER

Urban Sanitary Authority

FOR 1879.

Presented to the Sanitary Committee of that Body at the Meeting held March 3rd, 1880, and Ordered to be Printed.

Gloucester:

S. BLAND, STEAM PRINTER.

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REPORT.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health to the Gloucester Urban Sanitary Authority for the year ending December 31st, 1879.

It will be seen by reference to the accompanying tables that the health of the City has been satisfactory. This may be stated specially with regard to Epidemic diseases. There has been no death from small-pox or measles, and but one from scarlet fever, whilst in 1878 the number from the two last-named diseases was 22.

The deaths from all causes exceed those in the previous year, having been 728 in 1878 and 746 in 1879. This is not a large proportion when the increase of the population is remembered, especially when I mention the great mortality from diseases of the respiratory organs, namely, Bronchitis, Pleurisy, Pneumonia, Asthma, and Congestion of the Lungs, which amounted in 1879 to 183, being an increase on the previous year of 64. In 1879 89 children, under five years of age, died from the above-named causes.

The deaths in each quarter of the year were :—

From January 1st	to March 31st	... ...	242
„ April 1st	„ June 30th	... ...	204
„ July 1st	„ September 30th	... ...	131
„ October 1st	„ December 31st	... ...	169
			746

The population of the district has continued to increase. Mr. Read, the City Surveyor, informs me that in 1879 plans for the

erection of 270 houses were approved of, and by the end of the year a large proportion of them were completed and inhabited. It it probable that about 200 new houses are now occupied. The increase in the population from this cause may be estimated at about 1000. The excess of births over deaths is 533. With these data the following is the present probable population of the city :—

Estimated number at the end of 1878	36,557
Excess of births over deaths in 1879	533
Inhabitants of about 200 new houses at 5 per house	1,000
	38,090

As the number of deaths during the year was 746, the death-rate per 1000 would be 19·6. In the returns issued by the Registrar General I find that the death-rate throughout England and Wales was 21·0 per 1000 for 1879.*

Of the newly-erected houses nearly all have been connected with the city water system. There has also been a great increase in the number of applications from the owners of houses to which the Witcomb water was not previously laid on, for permission to connect with that supply. Mr. Read informs me that for old and new houses 535 such applications have been made and granted during the last year.

It will be seen by reference to the reports which I have had the honour to present to this Authority, that I have for the last five years urged the necessity of making extended provisions for meeting the increased and steadily increasing demands which are being made for a supply of this, the first necessary of life, without which it is impossible that the health of the city can

* By an error for which I am unable to account, the death-rate was wrongly given in my report for 1878. It should have been quoted at 19.91 per 1000 instead of as it is printed 20·02.

approach that standard which it is the effort of all Sanitary legislation to reach. I apprehend with very great anxiety the occurrence of even a moderately dry season. It will be remembered that when the number of persons using the city water was several thousands less than at present, if the summer was only moderately dry it became necessary to give for a long period an intermittent supply. This is at all times not only a source of great inconvenience to many householders, especially amongst the poor who have no means of storing water, but it is considered by all who are interested in sanitary matters to be a fruitful source of disease. I regret to find that although a Committee of the Local Sanitary Authority has been appointed to consider what steps should be taken to provide means for securing an additional supply, as yet I have not heard of any practical result of their deliberations. We have had a succession of wet seasons, and we may expect and hope that we shall have a drier summer this year than we have experienced for some years. I should be failing in my duty if I did not urge in the most emphatic manner the necessity of taking steps to provide additional water for the city, and I can only express my great regret that this has not been already done. I am aware that a considerable saving of water has been effected by the appointment of a water inspector, but in spite of what can be done by checking the wasting of water, I am convinced that on the occurrence of a season with an average rainfall, the present supply would be inadequate to meet the necessary requirements of the city.

Slaughter-houses.—With the Inspector, Mr. Allen, I have frequently visited the licensed slaughter-houses, and we have also inspected and reported on premises for which applications have been made for new licenses. I must again call the attention of the Authority to the want of a Public Slaughter-house, a plan for which, prepared by the late surveyor, Mr. Small, I prefixed to my report for 1875, I am strengthened in my opinion of the necessity for the erection of such a building by remarks which

fell from the Bench of Magistrates on the occasion of the prosecution of a person for using an unlicensed building for the purpose of killing animals. The Chairman stated that the Bench unanimously desired to call the attention of the Urban Sanitary to the necessity of the erection of such a building.

Unwholesome Food.—During the spring months my attention was drawn to the fact that bacon was being sold to the poor at a cheap price which was not fit for consumption. I visited nearly all the shops at which bacon was sold, and I found at several of them portions which had either been badly cured or which from other circumstances had become unfit for food. I directed the Meat Inspector, Mr. Lowe, to seize, and I gave the owners the option of allowing it to be destroyed or of being summoned before the magistrates. They consented to the destruction of that which had been so seized by me and no further steps were taken. In consequence of a report which came from Stroud that diseased mutton, which had been seized by the Inspector of Meat in that town, had been killed in Gloucester, I have constantly, with Mr. Allen, visited the slaughter-houses when sheep were being killed, and also the meat market, morning and evening, on Saturdays. I have found, on three occasions, meat which was unfit for food, and I have with the consent of the owners ordered its destruction. I have informed all those persons in whose possession unwholesome food was found, that on a repetition of such offence they would be summoned before the magistrates. The course which I have adopted in this matter has met with the approval of the Sanitary Committee.

The Hospital for Infectious Diseases has not been used for the reception of patients during the year, although it has always been prepared.

Skin Depôts and Bake-houses have been visited constantly by Mr. Allen, and I have frequently accompanied him. I have not had to complain of any of these localities.

Lodging Houses.—I may repeat what I have previously said in my reports that the condition of the registered houses is satisfactory as seen by me on my inspections, which have been both by day and night.

Smoke Nuisance.—The attention of the Sanitary Committee has been directed to the chimneys of works in the district which do not consume their smoke, and I trust that the action which is being taken will speedily cause the removal of this nuisance, which I am happy to be able to report has been considerably abated of late. It has not entirely ceased, but the attention of the proprietors of such works has been called to the Towns Improvement Act of 1858, by which compulsory powers are given to the Sanitary Authority, and I hope that in my next report I shall be able to state that the nuisance has been still further abated.

Returns of Births, Deaths, and Sickness.—These are compiled by me from the same sources as in previous years. Those of births and deaths from statistics furnished by the registrars; those relating to sickness from copies of the returns of sickness made every week by the Medical Officer of the Union, and from the books of the General Infirmary and the Children's Hospital. I am indebted to Mr. Lovegrove, the city coroner, for a list of the inquests held in the city during the past year.

During the past year my attention was called to "The Act for the better Protection of Infant Life." I have not been able to find any instance in which baby farming has been carried on in the city.

I have made reports to the Sanitary Committee at the meetings which are held once a fortnight, of the work which has been done in visiting and inspecting various premises, and in attending to any complaints of nuisances which I have

received. I am happy to be able to state that a personal interview and caution have almost universally been sufficient to procure the removal or abatement of such nuisances as I have inspected, and the occasions on which it has been necessary for me or for the inspector to give any legal notice have been but few. I am also happy to be able again to report the valuable assistance and co-operation which I have received from Mr. Read, the City Surveyor, from Mr. Allen, the Inspector of Nuisances, and from Mr. Lowe, the Meat Inspector. And I must also thank the Sanitary Committee for the support which they have afforded me in the execution of the duties of my office.

JOHN P. WILTON,

Medical Officer of Health to the Gloucester Urban Sanitary Authority.

The number of births during the year is greater than in 1878. In that year 1279 were registered. In 1879 the number was 1364.

TABLE OF BIRTHS

REGISTERED IN THE URBAN DISTRICT.

	Males.		Females.	
From January 1st to March 31st ...	175	...	179	
,, April 1st to June 30th ...	160	...	151	
,, July 1st to September 30th...	164	...	192	
,, October 1st to December 31st	180	...	163	
	679		685	Total 1364

TABLE OF SICKNESS

Amongst Paupers belonging to the Urban District treated by the Medical Officers of the Union ; and of other persons *belonging to the District* treated as In or Out-Patients at the Gloucester General Infirmary and at the Children's Hospital.

	PAUPERS		IN-PATIENTS		OUT-PATIENTS	
	Under 5 years of age	Over 5 years of age	Under 5 years of age	Over 5 years of age	Under 5 years of age	Over 5 years of age
All cases of sickness and disease	96	903	40	348	577	2264
Measles	1	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	1	1	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	1	...	...	...	...
Croup	...	2	...	1	...	...
Whooping Cough	10	8	2	1	34	5
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	6	...	1
Other forms of Continued Fever	3	12	...	...	6	...
Diarrhœa	13	22	1	1	55	12
Rheumatic Fever	...	5	...	3	...	...
Erysipelas	...	5	...	4	3	5
Ague	...	2	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	...	16	...	11	...	19
Bronchitis, Pleurisy and Pneumonia	36	162	2	28	43	61
Heart Disease	...	10	...	6	...	7
Injuries	3	57	9	78	63	541
Other Diseases	29	600	26	209	373	1613

TABLE OF DEATHS

WITHIN THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF GLOUCESTER IN 1880.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	AGES AT DEATH.							SEXES.		
	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 20	20 and under 40	40 and under 60	60 and under 80	Over 80	Males	Femls	Total.
Class .—Zymotic Diseases.										
Order 1 —MIASMATIC DISEASES ..	14	25	12	2	2	4	1	28	32	60
Scarlet Fever	..	..	1	..	..		..	..	1	1
Croup	..	1		..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Whooping Cough	7	18	2	.	..	.	..	13	14	27
Continued { Enteric Fever .	.	..	3	..	..	3	..	2	4	6
Continued { Other or doubtful ..	..	.	1	..	..	..	..	1		1
Diarrhœa	6	5	1	.	.	..	.	5	7	12
Rheumatism	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Acute Rheumatism	..	..	1	1	1	1		3	1	4
Diphtheria		1	2	1	1	.	..	..	5	5
Erysipelas	1		..	.	..	..	1	2	..	2
Order 2.—ENTHETIC	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	7	2	9
Syphilis	8	1	..	..	..	..	..	7	2	9
Order 3.—DIETETIC	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	2
Malnutrition	1	..	..		..	..	..	..	1	1
Intemperance	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1
Class II.—Constitutional Diseases										
Order 1.—DIATHETIC	...	...	...	1	4	13	...	7	11	18
Anœmia	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1
Dropsy	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	2	3
Cancer	..	..		..	4	9	..	5	8	13
Soot Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1
Order 2.—TUBERCULAR .. .	12	17	13	34	24	2	1	38	65	103
Tuberculosis	..	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	4	4
Scrofula	..	1		..	..		..		1	1
Tabes Mesenterica	8	3	..	..	..	.	..	3	8	11
Phthisis	2	2	3	30	23	1	1	25	37	62
Hydrocephalus	2	5	2	..	..		..	3	6	9
Meningitis	..	4	6	3	.	..	..	7	6	13
Peritonitis	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	.	3	3
Carried forward .. .	35	43	25	38	30	19	2	81	111	192

TABLE OF DEATHS

WITHIN THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF GLOUCESTER IN 1880, CONTINUED.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	AGES AT DEATH.							SEXES.		
	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 20	20 and under 40	40 and under 60	60 and under 80	Over 80	Males	Femls	Total.
Brought forward	35	43	25	38	30	19	2	81	111	192
Class III.—Local Diseases.										
Order 1.—NERVOUS SYSTEM	23	8	4	7	16	26	5	42	47	89
Apoplexy	..	..		1	2	6	2	3	8	11
Paralysis	..	..	..	1	3	14	3	8	13	21
Epilepsy	..	..	..	2	1	1		3	1	4
Abscess of Brain		..	..	1	..		..	..	1	1
Softening of Brain	..	..	..	..	3	2	..	4	1	5
Brain Disease	.	1	..	2	5	2		6	4	10
Convulsions	22	7	2		..	..	..	14	17	31
Inflammation of Brain		..	1	..	..	.	..	..	1	1
Congestion of Brain		..	1	..	..	1		1	1	2
Concussion of Brain		..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1
Laryngismus Stridulus	1	..	..	.	..	.	.	1	..	1
Tetanus	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1
Order 2.—ORGANS OF CIRCULATION ..	..	.	3	7	16	20	3	24	25	49
Heart Disease	..	..	3	6	15	20	2	21	25	46
Aneurism of Aorta	..		..	1	1	..	.	2	..	2
Thrombosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	.	1
Order 3.—RESPIRATORY ORGANS ..	56	33	9	9	21	51	5	105	79	184
Asthma		..	1	..	1	3	.	3	2	5
Bronchitis	44	28	7	3	8	41	5	71	65	136
Pneumonia..	10	4	..	5	9	6	..	27	7	34
Pleurisy	.	..	..	1	2	..	.	1	2	3
Congestion of Lungs	2	1	1	..	..	1		3	2	5
Other forms of Lung Disease	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1
Order 4 —DIGESTIVE ORGANS .. .	2	..	5	6	7	12	..	13	19	32
Cynanche Maligna	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	1	2	3
Disease of Œsophagus	.	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1
Gastritis	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
Hœmatemesis	.	..		..	1	..	..	1	..	1
Ulcer of Stomach	..	..		..		1	..	1	..	1
Stomach Disease	..	..	..	..	1	1		..	2	2
Enteritis	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Obstruction of Bowels	..	..	1	1	.	..	..	..	2	2
Hernia	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	3	3
Chronic Disease of Intestines	..	..	..		..	1	..		1	1
Disease of Liver		..	..	5	2	7	..	9	5	14
Icterus	2		..	..		..	..	1	1	2
Order 5.—URINARY ORGANS .. .	..	1	..	4	12	6	2	14	11	25
Diabetes		..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1
Albuminuria	..	1		..	.	..	..	1		1
Bright's Disease	..	..	..	3	8	2		6	7	13
Kidney Disease				..		2	2	2	2	4
Suppression of Urine			..	..	1	1	..	1	..	1
Disease of Bladder		..		..		1	..	2	..	2
Calculus	..	..		..	1	..	..	1	.	1
Cystitis		..		..	2	..	..	..	2	2
Carried forward.. .	116	85	46	71	102	134	17	279	292	571

TABLE OF DEATHS

WITHIN THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF GLOUCESTER IN 1880, CONTINUED.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	AGES AT DEATH.							SEXES.		
	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 20	20 and under 40	40 and under 60	60 and under 80	Over 80	Males	Femls	Total.
Brought forward	116	85	46	71	102	134	17	279	292	571
Class III.—Local Diseases *continued*										
Order 6.—GENERATIVE ORGANS ..	..	..	.	..	1	..	..	..	1	1
Cellulitis	..	..	.	.	1	..	..	..	1	1
Order 7.—CONNECTED WITH PARTURITION	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	5	5
Miscarriage	.	..	..		1	..	..	..	1	1
Metritis		..	.	1	..	..	..	..	1	1
Eclampsia	1	1	.	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Post Partum Hœmorrhage	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Order 8.—ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION, &c.	..	..	2	..	2	1	..	3	2	5
Diseased Knee Joint		..	.	..	1	..	..	1	..	1
Abscess in Knee Joint	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1
Ulcer of Legs	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1
Disease of Sacro-iliac Articulation ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Inflammation at Shoulder .. .	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Order 9.—DISEASE OF CUTANEOUS SYSTEM	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Eczema	1	..	.	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Order 10.—MALFORMATION .. .	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Malformed Heart	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Class IV.—Developmental Disease										
Order 1.—DISEASES OF CHILDREN ..	57	6	..	..	..	..	..	29	34	63
Debility from Birth	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	14	26
Premature Birth.. .. .	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	12	23
Teething	8	6	..	..	..	..	..	6	8	14
Order 2.—DISEASES OF AGED . ..	..	..	..	..	..	29	22	25	26	51
Old Age—Natural Decay .. .	..	..	..	..	..	29	22	25	26	51
Order 3.—DISEASE OF NUTRITION ..	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	5
Atrophy	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	5
Class V.—Violent Deaths, &c ..	1	6	4	12	6	1	1	21	10	31
Accidental Burns	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	2	1	3
Accidental Poisoning	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Accident—Other forms.. . ..	1	3	4	5	4	..	1	13	5	18
Found Drowned	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1
Suicide	..	..	..	6	1	..	..	4	3	7
Homicide	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1
Not Classified	3	1	3	..	2	2	1	6	6	12
Causes not specified or ill-defined Sudden—not ascertained. "Natural Causes," &c.	3	1	3	..	2	2	1	6	6	12
Total	183	100	57	84	114	167	41	365	381	746

TABLE OF INQUESTS

HELD IN THE

CITY OF GLOUCESTER DURING THE YEAR 1879

ON THE

BODIES OF PERSONS WHO DURING THEIR LIVES BELONGED TO THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

(I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Lovegrove, the City Coroner, for the Returns from which this Table is compiled.)

Date	Name of Deceased	Age	Verdict
1879			
February 3	Albert Johnson ...	5 years ...	Accidental death
,, ,,	Esther Churchill ...	80 years ...	Natural causes
,, 24	Samuel Bailey ...	41 years ...	Death by misadventure
March 10	John Allsop	4 years ...	Accidental death
April 23	Mary Ann Hanman ...	67 years ...	Natural causes
,, 28	Thomas Margrett ...	82 years ...	Accidental death
,, 29	Mary Trigg	4 days ...	Natural causes
May 9	Mary Mullany... ...	34 years ...	Killed herself. Temporary insanity
,, 15	Thomas James Smart...	2 years ...	Accidental death
,, 19	Martha Powell ...	58 years ...	Ditto
,, 26	Maria Dunn	58 years ...	Natural causes
June 21	William George Trotman.	14 years ...	Accidentally drowned
July 2	Florence Mary Bowers	2½ years ...	Accidental death
,, 22	Thomas Elliott Pearce	31 years ...	Killed himself. Temporary insanity
,, 28	Walter Shattock ...	15 years ...	Accidental death
August 8	Thomas Henry Till ...	28 years ...	Accidental death
,, 11	Maria Pickthorne ...	22 years ...	Ditto
,, 19	James Franklin ...	53 years ...	Natural causes
,, 21	Florence Allen ...	1 yr 5 mnths	Accidentally poisoned
Sept. 4	William Edgar Pope ...	37 years ...	Killed himself. Temporary insanity
,, 8	John Mountney ...	29 years ...	Drowned himself. Temporaryinsanity

TABLE OF INQUESTS—CONTINUED.

DATE		NAME OF DECEASED	AGE	VERDICT
1879 Sept.	10	Samuel Nibbs	44 years ...	Killed himself. Temporary insanity
,,	16	George Hall	45 years ...	Accidental death
,,	19	Richard Jones... ...	52 years ...	Accidentallydrowned
,,	27	Henry Stenner ...	3 months ...	Found dead
October	20	Joseph Payne	52 years ...	Accidental death
,,	23	William Organ ...	29 years ...	Found dead
,,	29	James Talboys... ...	34 years ...	Manslaughter against Mark Hill
Novem.	3	Mary Smith	41 years ...	Killed herself. Temporary insanity
,,	5	Ellen Fowler	42 years ...	Killed herself. Temporary insanity
Decem.	1	Lottie Powell	3 years ...	Accidental death
,,	4	Arthur Ernest Smith...	13 years ...	Natural causes
,,	9	James Attwood ...	5 years ...	Congestion of the Brain.

PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

During the past year I inspected five vessels at Sharpness in which three cases of illness were reported. I found nothing of an infectious nature. I also had my attention called to three cases occurring on board vessels in the canal, but they were not of an infectious character.

Four deaths of foreign sailors occurred in the Infirmary. One from injury to the skull; one from tumour of brain; one from enteric fever; and one from disease of the heart.

There were also admitted to the Infirmary the following cases of disease and injury :—

Injuries	6
Febricula	2
Enteric Fever	2
Other Diseases	15

JOHN P. WILTON,

Medical Officer of Health to the Port Sanitary Authority.